Constitution Amendment Bill on Panchayati Raj System

1498. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged to speed up the consultations on the proposed Constitution Amendment Bill on Panchayati Raj System in view of the ensuing municipal polls in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken to call an early conference to discuss the issue with all State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) The comments/suggestions of the State/UT Governments have been sought in this regard and the matter has also been followed up with them.

Assam Government's request for change in funding pattern

1499. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken on Government of Assam's request for changing the funding pattern of rural development programmes to 90:10 between the Central Government and the State Government in view of the financial difficulties of the State Government to provide its 25 per cent share as at present?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): The funding pattern of major rural development programmes has been revised only recently according to which funds have to be shared between the Central Government and the State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 respectively, and presently there is no proposal to revise it.